

STATEMENT CORONA



Date: 20 March 2020

Seeds and young plants – essential products

Plant reproductive materials (seeds, seed potatoes, cuttings, bulbs and young plants) are the basis of all green value chains. The sector is the starting point of food supply in the Netherlands and abroad. We therefore must be able to continue operating and to deliver our products undisturbed, despite necessary measures to curb the spread of the Corona virus. Otherwise, in a few months - regardless of whether Corona weakens soon or not - we will run out of food in our stores.

All countries of the World use seeds from the Netherlands. Every day, trucks drive through Europe to bring Dutch young vegetable plants and seed potatoes to growers, who will produce the healthy food for Swedes, Austrians and Belgians in a few weeks / months. Airplanes and ships achieve the same in countries further away. The Dutch sector does not operate on its own – young plants (tissue cultured and cuttings) and seeds are multiplied in many countries and need to be transported to the Netherlands for quality treatments and testing, and delivery of the right seeds to the vast diversity of farmers.

The Dutch government is well aware of this - it is important that other countries endorse it, that it is necessary to keep borders open, that these essential products can be transported in the countries undisturbed, and that producers can continue to produce and sell these valuable products.

The companies, united in Plantum, wish policy makers success in dealing with this pandemic in all aspects, and specifically in making sure that the basis of agricultural production, the seeds and young plants are given due emphasis in national and local policies.

Niels Louwaars, director Plantum

